



Hudson River

PCBs SUPERFUND SITE

Region 2: NJ, NY, PR, VI • 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

Quality of Life Performance Standards Odor

December 2003

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Highlights

This fact sheet is one of six that have been created to assist the public in the review of the draft quality of life performance standards developed to minimize the impacts of the Hudson River cleanup on local communities. It describes the primary components of the performance standard for potential odors from the project. Information on the performance standards for air quality, noise, lighting and navigation can be found in a general overview and in individual fact sheets on these topics, and in the Draft Quality of Life Performance Standards document, which is available for public review and comment.

The public comment period for the draft quality of life performance standards begins on December 19, 2003 and ends on February 17, 2004.

Background

The February 2002 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site requires the development of performance standards that set specific goals and requirements for the project. The quality of life performance standards are intended to reduce the effects of the dredging; sediment processing, transferring and dewatering; and support operations on people, businesses, recreation, and community activities in the project area. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will review project design plans for consistency with the quality of life performance standards and will oversee cleanup activities to ensure that they are met.

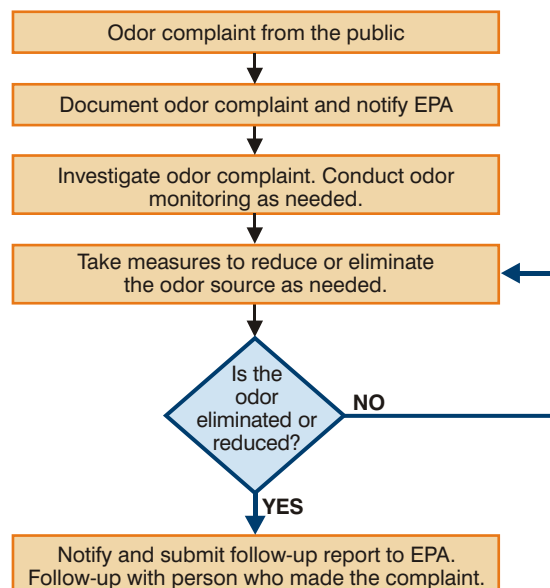
Odor Standard

Odors may be generated by equipment and cleanup activities. Odors are difficult to measure because they vary depending on the concentration of the pollutant and the sensitivity of the person exposed to the odor. One of the most reliable indicators of odor emissions is a smell detected by the human nose. The most likely odor during dredging and sediment processing activities would come from hydrogen sulfide released by decaying plants and other organic material found in the river sediments. Hydrogen sulfide can be detected at concentrations far lower than those that would be harmful to people's health. The standard is designed to minimize unwanted odors from the project.

The limit for hydrogen sulfide odor, based on the New York State ambient air standard, is 0.01 parts per million.

Compliance with the Odor Standard

The performance standard for odor requires the monitoring of hydrogen sulfide, control of the sources of potential odors, and ongoing follow-up of any odor complaints. Odor monitoring will be done at the shoreline for dredging operations or site perimeter for facility operations. In addition, monitoring may be done closer to residential areas or businesses when needed. If odor complaints are received, the procedure shown below will be followed.



Detection of odors by workers or the public, as well as odor monitoring, will guide the actions required to comply with the standard during the cleanup:

- *If the odor level is at or below the odor standard for hydrogen sulfide, operations will continue as designed, with regular reporting to EPA.*
- *If odors are detected and/or project-related complaints are received:*
 - the exceedance and/or complaint will be investigated,
 - appropriate steps will be taken to resolve the complaint and/or exceedance,
 - follow-up with the person who made the complaint will be conducted, and
 - follow-up reporting to EPA will be conducted.
- *If the odor level exceeds the hydrogen sulfide standard, or if frequent / recurrent complaints are received:*
 - the exceedance and/or complaint will be investigated,
 - additional monitoring will be performed as needed,
 - an action plan will be developed and implemented,
 - follow-up with the person who made the complaint will be conducted, and
 - EPA will be notified within 24 hours of discovery, and a detailed report will be prepared.

EPA will evaluate the methods and frequency of sampling and monitoring as the project proceeds and will consider any necessary changes when appropriate.

EPA will work with local officials and communities through various stakeholder groups, including the Community Advisory Group (CAG), to keep them up-to-date on compliance with the performance standard. EPA and/or personnel responsible for day-to-day operations will provide updates through verbal and written notifications and regularly scheduled stakeholder and CAG meetings.

Public Review

The Draft Quality of Life Performance Standards document is available at the information repositories located in Glens Falls, Ft. Edward (Hudson River Field Office), Ballston Spa, Albany, Poughkeepsie, New York City (EPA Region 2 offices) and in Edgewater, New Jersey. Electronic versions can be found on the EPA project Web site (www.epa.gov/hudson). Copies are also available in print and on CD-ROM by calling the Hudson River Field Office. The public can submit comments in writing via hard copy and email. All comments should be sent to:



Dean Maraldo, Project Manager
USEPA Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007
maraldo.dean@epa.gov



For More Information

Visit, call, or write to the Hudson River Field Office at the address below or log on to **www.epa.gov/hudson**.

EPA Contacts



Leo Rosales

Community Involvement Coordinator
Hudson River Field Office

421 Lower Main Street
Hudson Falls, NY 12839
(518) 747-4389 or (866) 615-6490 Toll-Free
hrfo@capital.net

*The Field Office hours are Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm, with evening hours by
appointment.*



David Kluesner

Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 2 Office
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007
(212) 637-3653

EPA Regional Public Liaison

EPA Region 2 has designated a public liaison as a point-of-contact for community concerns and questions about the federal Superfund program in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To support this effort, the Agency has established a 24-hour, toll-free number that the public can call to request information, express concerns, or register complaints about Superfund. The public liaison for EPA's Region 2 office is: George H. Zachos, U.S. EPA, Region 2, 2890 Woodbridge Avenue MS-211, Edison, New Jersey 08837, (732) 321-6621, Toll-free (888) 283-7626.